



## Running Start for School - 2010 FACT SHEET



**PURPOSE:** Provide school supplies to students in Olmsted County who are eligible for free or reduced lunch.

The start of a new school year means buying school supplies, but for lower-income families it can be a time when money is tight. Running Start for School depends on the support of our Olmsted County community to help provide school supplies needed by students.

Individuals or groups collect school supplies and drop them off at the United Way building (903 West Center Street) August 12 & 13. The school supplies are sorted and distributed to students on August 24 and 25. Last year, 2,237 students received school supplies. This year there are 6,338 students eligible to receive school supplies.

**SPONSORS:** Running Start for School is a community initiative of United Way of Olmsted County. Major partners include Cumulus Broadcasting (KYBA-FM Y105), and Rochester Public Schools.

**WHO RECEIVES DONATED ITEMS:** Running Start for School works with Olmsted County Health and Human Service organizations and schools to identify K-12 students who live in Olmsted County who are eligible for free and/or reduced lunch and who need school supplies.

### HOW TO REGISTER?

- Call (507) 287-1958 between June 1 and August 10 to register.
- Registration is available in English, Somali and Spanish.
- Longfellow Elementary School students must call between June 1 and July 15 to register.

**RUNNING START FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Students in grades K-5 receive a backpack (if needed) and students in grades 6-12 receive a backpack or a binder (if needed). Additionally students receive pencils, pens, markers, colored pencils, glue, pencil bag or box, highlighter, ruler, scissors, notebooks, folders, loose-leaf paper, and other items needed for individual grades. For a complete list of supplies we are collecting, go to:

<http://www.uwolmsted.org/runningstart>.

**HOLD A DRIVE OR BE A DROP SITE:** Organizations, groups or businesses may participate by holding their own drive and be a Drive Partner or choose to be a Drop Site Partner where community members drop off school supplies. For information about how to hold a drive, be a drop site or to see what groups are already participating, go to:

<http://www.uwolmsted.org/runningstart>.

**VOLUNTEER:** We need LOTS of help to sort and distribute supplies August 9-25. Starting June 1 individuals may view volunteer opportunities by going to:

<http://www.uwolmsted.org/runningstart> and click on Volunteer! Volunteers are also needed to help distribute school supplies to Longfellow Elementary School students on July 22 and 27.

**CASH DONATIONS:** Cash or check donations are accepted at United Way of Olmsted County (903 West Center Street, Suite 100 • Rochester MN 55902) and should be designated to Running Start for School. Donations are used to support the Running Start for School initiative.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Contact United Way of Olmsted County at (507) 287-1958 or [runningstart@uwolmsted.org](mailto:runningstart@uwolmsted.org).